

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-61 are pending in the application, that claims 5-7, 13-19, 20-61 are withdrawn from consideration, and that claims 1-4, 8-12 are rejected.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,690,797 to Harada et al.

Harada et al teaches an electrolysis system wherein the electrolysis cell (1) is submerged in a combined water reserve and gas separator (7/7A). The electrolysis cell (1) has an anode and a cathode portion that produces oxygen and hydrogen gas. The oxygen exits the electrolysis cell (1) through connection (3) into the separator portion (7A) of the water reservoir (7). The hydrogen gas exits the electrolysis cell (1) through connection (4) which pierces the wall of the water reservoir (7/7A) and exits into a discrete hydrogen/water separator (32).

Independent claim 1 is directed to a system for monitoring combustible gas comprising, *inter alia*, "a second phase separator having an inlet and at least one outlet having a opening therefrom, said second separator inlet being fluidly connected to said first separator outlet."

Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 1 is not obvious in view of Harada et al. In Examiners rejection, Examiner states that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the prior art identified in Figure 1 of the present invention using connection (4) of Harada et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner may have misread teachings of Harada et al. While the connection (4) of Harada et al. does extend from the reservoir/separator (7/7A) as shown in Figure 1 of Harada et al, it is not connecting reservoir (7/7A) with the hydrogen separator (32) as the Examiner suggests. Connection (4) of Harada et al is the hydrogen gas conduit between the electrolysis cell and the hydrogen separator 32 (see Column 11, lines 13-17). It does not fluidly connect two gas separators, nor does it suggest this type of connection as is required by Claim 1 of the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that Harada et al. is identical to the prior art shown in Figure 1 of the present application with the only

difference being that Harada et al. places the electrochemical cell inside a fluid reservoir while the prior art shown in Figure 1 connects the electrochemical cell via a conduit

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination the prior art shown in Figure 1 of the present application with Harada et al would result in a system that is identical to that shown in Figure 1. Since the resulting combination would not be any different nor perform the desired function of enhancing the drying of the gas stream, there would be no motivation by one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

For the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1 Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of dependent Claims 2-4, and 8-12 which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and incorporate all of the limitations of Claim 1 are improper. Therefore, applicants submit that Claims 2-4, and 8-12 patentably define over Harada et al. in view of Whynall et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-4, and 8-12 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Reply or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 503125 maintained by applicants' agent.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 503125

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD DEMAREST. ET AL.

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